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EXAMINER

PATEL, NIHIR B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

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PAPER

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments in reference to claims 1, 5-10 and 29 filed on November 27th, 2006 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection(s) of claims 1, 5-10 and 29 of the previous office action dating August 9th, 2006 has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims **3, 4, 30 and 33** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Farmer (US 2002/0069870).

4. As to claims **3, 30 and 33**, Farmer teaches an apparatus that comprises a chamber housing defining an interior space comprising an input end and an output end (**see figure 1 and paragraph [0022]**); a one-way inhalation valve **16 (see figure 1)** positioned upstream of the interior space, the one way inhalation valve operative to permit a flow of gases into the interior space of the chamber housing; a first inhalation conduit **17 (see figure 1 and paragraph [0022])** communicating with the output end of the chamber, the first conduit adapted to transmit medication to the patient; a second inhalation conduit (**see figure 1 the portion located next to the one way valve and paragraph [0022]**) communicating with the input end of the chamber housing, wherein the one-way inhalation valve is located in the second conduit inhalation conduit, the second inhalation conduit comprising an oxygen intake line communicating with the

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one way inhalation valve; an exhaust conduit (see figure 1; the portion located just before the exhaust valve 21) communicating with the first inhalation conduit 17; a one way exhaust valve 21 located in the exhaust conduit, the one way exhaust valve adapted to prevent a backflow of gas from the exhaust conduit into the first inhalation conduit; and a pressurized metered dose inhaler 11 in flow communication with the second inhalation conduit downstream of the one way inhalation valve (see figure 1).

5. As to claim 4, Farmer teaches an apparatus wherein the second inhalation conduit comprises an adaptor having an output end connected to the input end of the chamber housing and an input end connected to the oxygen intake line, the adaptor having the one-way inhalation valve therein (see figure 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

8. Claims **24-27 and 32** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farmer (US 20020069870).

9. As to **claim 24**, Farmer teaches a method step comprising the step transmitting oxygen from a ventilator through a holding chamber and an inhalation conduit to the patient during an inhalation sequence of a breathing cycle (**see figure 1**); introducing the medication into the holding chamber **14** (**see figure 1**); preventing a substantial transmission of an exhaust gas into the holding chamber during an exhalation sequence of the breathing cycle (**see figure 1**); transmitting a substantial portion of the exhaust gas into an exhaust conduit during the exhalation sequence (**see figure 1**); and preventing a substantial transmission of the exhaust gas from the exhaust conduit into the inhalation conduit during subsequent inhalation sequences of subsequent breathing cycles (**see figure 1**) and transmitting the substantial portion of the exhaust gas from the exhaust conduit to the ventilator during the exhalation sequence (**see paragraph [0004]; the reference refers to a ventilator breathing circuit which can be defined as a portion of the exhaust gas from the exhaust gas conduit returning to the ventilator during the exhalation sequence**).

The claimed method steps would have been obvious because they would have resulted from the use of the device of Farmer.

10. As to **claim 25**, Farmer teaches a method step wherein preventing the substantial transmission of the exhaust gas into the holding chamber during the exhalation sequence comprises creating a back pressure in the holding chamber (**see figure 1**).

The claimed method steps would have been obvious because they would have resulted from the use of the device of Farmer.

11. As to **claim 26**, Farmer teaches a method step of creating the back pressure in the holding chamber comprises providing a one way valve between the gas source and the holding chamber, and preventing the flow of the exhaust gas from the holding chamber toward the gas source with the one way valve (**see figure 1**).

The claimed method steps would have been obvious because they would have resulted from the use of the device of Farmer.

12. As to **claim 27**, Farmer teaches a method step of preventing a substantial transmission of the exhaust gas from the exhaust conduit into the inhalation conduit during subsequent inhalation sequences comprises providing a one way valve in the exhaust conduit, and preventing the flow of the exhaust gas from the exhaust conduit to the inhalation conduit with the one way valve (**see figure 1**).

The claimed method steps would have been obvious because they would have resulted from the use of the device of Farmer.

13. As to **claim 32**, Farmer teaches a method step of providing a one way valve **16** between the gas source (**see paragraph [0004]**) and the holding chamber **14** comprises providing an inhalation conduit communicating with an input end of the holding chamber, wherein the one way valve is disposed in the inhalation conduit, and wherein the introducing the medication into the holding chamber comprises introducing the medication into the inhalation conduit between the holding chamber and the one way valve (**see figure 1**).

The claimed method steps would have been obvious because they would have resulted from the use of the device of Farmer.

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14. Claim **28** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farmer (US 20020069870) in view of Richardson et al. (US 6,279,574).

15. **As to claim 28**, Farmer discloses the applicant's invention as claimed with the exception of providing an inhalation conduit that comprises an endotracheal tube. Richardson discloses an apparatus that does provide an inhalation conduit that comprises an endotracheal tube as well as a WYE connector, which are well known in the respiratory art. Therefore it would have been obvious to modify Farmer's invention by providing an inhalation conduit that comprises an endotracheal tube and a WYE connector as taught by Richardson.

Allowable Subject Matter

16. Claims **1, 5-14 and 29** are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nihir Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-4803. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 to 4:30 every other Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia Bianco can be reached on (571) 272-4940. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

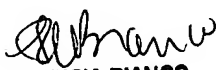
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